

# memorandum

DATE: February 11, 2004

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: NE-70

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary-2004

TO: Beverly A. Cook, Assistant Secretary  
for Environment, Safety and Health

As required under DOE Order 451.1B, the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) NEPA Planning Summary for the year 2004 is attached. Should you or your staff have any questions or comments on this summary, please contact Raj Sharma, NE NEPA Compliance Officer, at (301) 903-2899.



William D. Magwood, IV, Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science  
and Technology

Attachment

cc: Carol M. Borgstrom, EH

FEB 11 2004  
Rec'd 2/11/04

## **Attachment**

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary-2004 Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE)**

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#### **Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities**

##### Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Remote Treatment Project (DOE EA 1386)

The proposed action is to provide heavily shielded remote waste handling services for Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) and INEEL legacy and newly-generated remote-handled (RH) waste. The project would include a shielded hot cell with equipment for sorting, characterizing, treating, and repackaging highly radioactive transuranic, mixed, and other radioactive waste. The facility mission is to make RH radioactive wastes ready for shipment to the disposal facility. Much of the proposed action was analyzed in the Department of Energy (DOE) Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0203-F) as the Remote Mixed Waste Treatment Facility project. Notice of Intent (to prepare an EA) letters were mailed to the State of Idaho and Shoshone-Bannock Tribal contacts in January 2001. The draft EA was put on hold pending resolution of management options. A new alternatives analysis report is under preparation, and the draft EA will be modified to incorporate the analysis from this report. The final EA is scheduled for completion in August 2004. The total cost is estimated to be \$150,000. The EA is being prepared at ANL-W and will be approved by the Manager, Idaho Operations Office. The NE Program Manager and the NEPA Compliance Officer will participate in review and approval of the EA.

#### **EAs Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 months**

##### EA for Uranium-233 (U-233) Disposition and Building 3019A Deactivation

The main objectives of this effort are to process and repackage DOE's inventory of U-233 stored in the Radiochemical Development Facility (Building 3019A) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to render it suitable for safe, long-term, economical storage including elimination of the need for criticality and safeguards and security controls, and in the process, to extract Thorium-229 for beneficial use in medical research and potential treatment from as much of the U-233 inventory as is practicable. The Oak Ridge Operations Office has the lead in preparation and approval of the EA. The EA is expected to be completed by August 2004. The NE Program Manager and the NEPA Compliance Officer will participate in review and approval of the EA.

#### **Environmental Impact Statements Expected to be Prepared in the Next 24 Months**

None